M2M Made Simple

As more and more tech-savvy businesses cozy up to the idea of connecting their devices, the number of M2M solutions is growing. While options are usually a good thing, when it comes to a technology like M2M, they can also make development an overwhelming and time-consuming task.

Consolidating the M2M value chain is nothing new. In fact, platform providers have been aggressively pursuing the M2M market for quite some time. In fact, many such providers are prominent players in the CW100 list each year.

Overall, the good news is several technology providers are working hard to change all that by designing all-in-one, open-source connectivity solutions. In fact, new options continue to hit the market. Just this month, custom software development company DataArt, www.dataart.com, introduced DeviceHive, a non-proprietary, open-sourced M2M platform.

With open-source libraries and cloud-based API (application programming interface), management portal and set of components, the self-contained framework is designed to enable remote management of any device, regardless of the network topology. According to DataArt, this eliminates the time-consuming burden of developing messaging protocol and communication libraries, simplifying development and allowing companies to focus more on the functionality of their systems. Or as Artyom Astafurov, chief innovation officer, says, it makes building an M2M solution an “enjoyable experience.”

Once all the components of DeviceHive are deployed, the framework allows queuing and delivering of commands between devices and client applications, with a ready-made and customizable API. This gives innovators the ability—and the time—to let their imaginations run wild, whether they want an iPhone app to talk to a smart energy thermostat over a ZigBee gateway connected to the cloud, or a fleet tracking device connected via a 3G network talking to Google Maps. Potential applications are virtually endless, ranging from security, clean tech, and smart homes to remote sensors, telemetry, and automation.

An open platform can often lead to great things. In fact, they are precisely what makes things like the M2M hackathons so successful, allowing developers and programmers that were not familiar with the technology—or sometimes even with M2M altogether—and create brilliant applications in little time.

In the ever-expanding world of the M2M, these types of scalable and flexible M2M solutions are exactly what the industry needs to move forward. Hopefully, they can also make development headaches a thing of the past.